beneficiaries, the study revealed that only a small percentage (32%) of the beneficiaries were supplied with Vikas Patrikas, which is a very serious matter.

6. The linkage of IRDP with TRYSEM and DWCRA was found to be very poor. While only 2.13% of the families reported that any of their members were assisted under DWCRA, 3.88% of beneficiaries reported receiving training under TRYSEM.

[English]

Open Sale Prices of Wheat

4848. SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to news-item captioned "FCI wheat price flip-flop: Insiders make Rs. 100 crores" appearing in *The Economic Times*, dated March 20, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the Government have conducted any inquiry into the matter;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Keeping in view the gap in the market prices *vis-a-vis* the open sale prices of FCI wheat, to neutralise the increased freight element paid by FCI in moving wheat from procuring to the consuming areas, to reduce the subsidy burden on open sale and to discourage traders to make undue profit, the Government, on the recommendations of the High Level Committee, revised open sale price of wheat with effect from 4.2.97. The new price range was from Rs. 4900/- to Rs. 7900/- per MT.

Representations were received from some of the State Government against this revision in prices. The matter was re-examined and the prices were again revised with effect from 10th March, 1997 valid till 31st March, 1997. The revised price range was Rs. 4900/- to Rs. 6800/- per MT.

The news item mentioned in part (a) of the question refers to this increase and subsequent reduction in the price range of open sale wheat. It claims that those who had early indications of these changes made undue profits. The news item refers to steep hike in open sale prices of FCI wheat for Western, Southern and Eastern regions in February 1997. It further says that the higher prices were retained for a month in spite of criticism from various State Governments, etc. The news item also refers to certain sections in Maharashtra who are opposed to movement of indigenous wheat from Maharashtra to other States.

The question of protecting the interest of a section of the purchasers as alleged in the Press report does not arise. Stringent conditions were imposed in the Government notification of 10th March, 1997 stipulating that the purchasers of open sale wheat will have to be sponsored by the States/UTs and that their undertaking about the prices of wheat/wheat products being fixed by States/UTs were to be rigidly enforced. Similarly, movement of imported wheat to consuming areas is to be regulated in accordance with the advice of the Directorate of Plant Protection and Quarantine of the Ministry of Agriculture.

Over a period of time, policy guidelines on open sale of wheat were reviewed and stringent conditions were imposed so that unscrupulous elements do not take advantage of the scheme.

(c) to (e) In view of the facts explained in part (b) of the Question, the question of conducting any inquiry of the matter does not arise.

RDX Blasts

4849. SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA :
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of RDX-explosive blasts in the country during 1997;

(b) the number of casualties and other damage caused to the public and other property including the railway property;

(c) the details of the militant, anti-social and other organisations found involved in these blasts; and

(d) the steps taken to bring the culprits to book and the action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b) 168 blasts including RDX explosions took place in Jammu & Kashmir during the current year (upto April 15, 1997), in which 69 persons were killed, 26 houses, 10 shops and one school building and 6 vehicles were damaged. In the rest of the country, as per information available, 27 blasts were reported killing 12 persons and injuring 85. Details of damage caused to public property etc. in States other than Jammu & Kashmir is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.